

Arts



Sir George Williams
Faculty of Arts

Philosophy





General Information

Students may select options to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree in one of several disciplines offered by the Faculty of Arts. In addition, students may choose to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy, or a Bachelor of Arts degree in History.



A graduate program leading to the Master of Science in Arts in Philosophy is also available.

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Further Information is available from the Director of the Department of Philosophy.

SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS CAMPUS

1976-1977

Departmental Structure

COURSE GUIDE

List of Members of the Department

1976/77

Professor and Chairman of the Department
D. Laskay

Professors:

Stanley A. French
Roger D. Royal
Dallas Laskay

Associate Professors:

Vladimir Zeman
R. Mohin Ahluwalia

Assistant Professors:

Christiane M. Allen
Sherris Bellotti
Jack Grescule
Franz Oppenher

Information for Prospective Students

Admission Requirements

This Course Guide has been prepared months in advance of the 1976/77 Academic Year and information contained herein is subject to change.

Students are advised not to purchase any texts without the approval of the department or professor concerned.

For further information contact the Director of the Department of Philosophy.

General Information

Students who wish to major in Philosophy may choose from a large selection of courses those which reflect their particular interests. Joint-major programmes in Philosophy may be taken with any other department in the Arts Faculty. Students may do Honours in Philosophy or select a Joint-Honours programme in Philosophy and English, Religion, Sociology, Education and History.

A Graduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Arts in Philosophy is also available.

Further Information is available on request at the Department of Philosophy.

Concordia University,
Sir George Williams Campus,
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West,
Montreal, Quebec.
H3G 1M8

Telephone: 879-7262

List of Members of the Department

Professor and Chairman of the Department
D. Laskey

Professors

Stanley G. French
Roger B. Angel
Dallas Laskey

Associate Professors

Vladimir Zeman
M. Mobin Ahmad

Assistant Professors

Christine G. Allen
Sheila Mullett
Jack Ornstein
Franz Oppacher

Majors Advisor: J. Ornstein 879-4393

Honours Advisor: C.G. Allen 879-7280

Statement on the Nature and Objectives of Programmes and Courses in Philosophy

Philosophy is the systematic attempt to understand the individual, his world, and reality. Whether reason itself can yield such knowledge is a basic philosophical question. Perhaps alternative ways of knowing, such as intuition, experience, or revelation are necessary. Philosophers vary widely in formulating a position on these issues.

Philosophy questions basic principles, assumptions and prejudices. What is the good life? Is man free? Is beauty in the object? Is the mind distinguishable from the body? Is the universe orderly or chaotic? Are there any necessary rules of logical thinking?

Some philosophy courses include much dialogue between teacher and student and among students because philosophy is often seen more as an activity than as a body of facts - the activity of critical inquiry. Thus in many philosophy courses, students are encouraged to seek their own answers to the above questions and are encouraged to do this systematically and critically.

Philosophy and Other Disciplines

Philosophy has benefits for students of other disciplines by providing a view which is unobtainable from within the discipline itself. What is sought as an understanding of the philosophical foundations of their specific discipline, close scrutiny of the principles and postulates and their philosophic import, and an understanding of the relationships between disciplines.

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Programmes de Philosophie: nature et objectifs

La philosophie cherche avec méthode à comprendre l'homme, sa nature et son univers. Une question philosophique fondamentale, c'est justement de savoir si la raison peut accéder par ses seules moyens à une telle connaissance de l'homme. d'autres voies de connaissance, comme l'intuition, l'expérience s'imposeraient-elles à nous pour apporter une solution; a ce problème? Sur tous ces points, les réponses des philosophes diffèrent à la vérité, grandement.

La philosophie s'attaque aux préjugés, remet en question suppositions et principes: c'est ainsi qu'elle se demande en quoi consiste le bonheur; si l'homme est libre; si la beauté est vraiment objective; si l'on peut distinguer correctement, il faut suivre certaines lois. Voilà donc autant de problèmes proprement philosophiques.

La philosophie est souvent considérée comme une activité et non comme un ensemble d'information ou de faits: dans plusieurs cours les étudiants sont donc invités à développer leurs capacité de pensée critique. Certains cours comprennent dialogues, et échanges entre professeur et étudiants et aussi entre étudiant et étudiant.

Avantages de la philosophie pour les étudiants d'une discipline autre que la philosophie

L'étude de la philosophie se révèle profitable également pour les étudiants d'une autre discipline. Sur les fondements et postulats de ces disciplines comme sur leurs relations réciproques, surgissent en effet des questions qu'on ne peut résoudre à l'intérieur de ces disciplines même. Par contre, il est justement du ressort de la philosophie de considérer ce genre de problèmes et de tenter d'y apporter des éclaircissements.

Philosophy Council

The philosophical community at Concordia, Sir George Williams Campus consists of the members of the Department of Philosophy, the graduate students, the honours and majors students and all undergraduate students enrolled in one or more courses in Philosophy. This community is represented by a governing body, the Philosophy Council.

The Philosophy Council consists of all members of the Department of Philosophy, both full-time and part-time; one representative of the day students and one representative of the evening students; one Philosophy Major, one Philosophy Honours student and one Graduate Student. Each of these representatives is elected by the student group he or she represents. Also, the President of the Philosophy Club is an ex-officio member of the Council.

The business of the Philosophy Council consists of matters concerning curriculum, programmes, library, student discipline, university government, as well as budgetary matter, professional development and research.

The Philosophy Council has the following standing committees, the Honours-Majors-Curriculum Committee, the Graduate Studies Committee, and the Library Committee.

H/M/C Committee

The Honours, Major and Curriculum Committee is a standing committee of the Philosophy Council, and reports to Council each month. Its members include the Honours and Major advisors, together with a representative of the Honours students and the Major students in philosophy, plus other departmental representation both faculty and student.

It is the responsibility of this Committee to review all Honours, Joint-Honours and Major programmes, and to recommend all formal changes or additions to, or deletions from the undergraduate curriculum. All recommendations from the H/M/C Committee are brought to Philosophy Council to final departmental approval.

The Graduate Studies Committee

This committee is a standing committee of Philosophy Council, which discusses and plans graduate courses and programmes. It advertises the Graduate Programme in Philosophy and deals with admissions, comprehensive examinations and course changes. There are two graduate students and one qualifying student representative and four full-time faculty members on this committee.

Library Committee

The function of the Library Committee is to co-ordinate the ordering of books and periodicals for the library and to supervise the resource material at the disposal of the Department. The library has complete run of most of the major philosophical journals. In particular, the book holdings are especially strong in the area of contemporary philosophy. Students are encouraged to make suggestions for the acquisition of titles in any area of philosophy.

The Philosophy Club

This Club is a student organization with an executive elected by the Philosophy Community and student representatives. The aim of this Club is to provide academic and social programmes of interest to students in Philosophy. The academic programme provides a number of guest lecturers from other universities. The social events consist of various summer and winter outings, coffee parties and other activities. The Club also provides an opportunity for informal philosophical discussions. Since the Club is funded by the D.S.A., the E.S.A., and the G.S.A., all students are automatically members.

For further information, please call 879-7262.

Philosophy N-210/3 X

Problems of Philosophy

J. Ornstein

A critical examination of attempts by philosophers to answer such questions as the following: Are we free or determined? Is there a God? What is the mind? What makes anything right or wrong? What makes something true? What can we really know?

It is expected that students will not only acquire some knowledge of what philosophers have said about these issues, but will also think critically about them on their own. Thus some discussion in class and in conferences is an integral part of this course.

An anthology of articles by leading philosophers of the past and the present will be used in this course. The lectures will be based on readings selected from this collection.

Texts:

Pap, Arthur (eds.) A Modern Introduction to Philosophy, 3rd ed. 1973

Edwards, Paul Collier-Macmillan Canada Ltd. Toronto

Evaluation:

There will be two papers and a final examination. The first paper will be worth 30% and the final paper and examination will each be worth 35% of the final grade. However, one's final grade may be partially determined by the quality of one's participation in class and in conferences.

Philosophy N-210/3 XX

X EASY 1000

Problems of Philosophy

S. Mullett

This course is designed to provide a detailed knowledge of certain contemporary philosophical problems as well as a technique of critical thinking and writing. Problems in ethics, political thought, epistemology and metaphysics will be discussed.

Texts:

Stokes, A.	<u>Research Guide</u>
Mill, J.S.	<u>On Liberty</u> (Library of Liberal Arts)
Bottomore, J.B.	
Ruber, M.	Karl Marx: <u>Selected Writings</u> (Pelican)
Mill, J.S.	<u>Utilitarianism</u> (Library of Liberal Arts)
Murdoch, I.	<u>The Sovereignty of Good</u>
Sartre, J.P.	<u>Essays in Existentialism</u>

Requirements:

Four written assignments and four class quizzes will be presented by the student throughout the year. Of the four written assignments, two will be research papers and two will be book reports from a given list of recommended readings. The student will be expected to meet with the professor during the preparation of the two research papers. The student may substitute for the four class quizzes a final take-home exam if desired, although the quizzes are designed to help the student express himself/herself, and discover which areas of his/her work need correction.

Evaluation:

Each of the written assignments is worth 20% of the total grade, and the sum of the four quizzes (or the substitute final take-home test) is worth 20%. However, consideration will be given to class attendance, participation, the personal interviews with the professor and to improvement during the course of the year.

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Philosophy N-211/3 X

Philosophy N-211/3 XX

Philosophical Classics

M.M. Ahmad

This course is intended to be a historical introduction to philosophy, concentrating on the study of Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Hume, Kant and Bertrand Russell. It will aim at acquainting the students with some of the major problems with which philosophers have been concerned and with their different approaches. The course will consist of lectures and class discussion.

Texts:

Cornford, F.M.
McKeon, R. (ed.)
Hume, D.
Kant, I.
Russell, B.
Descartes, R.

The Republic of Plato
Introduction to Aristotle
An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding
Prolegomena to any Future Metaphysics
The Problems of Philosophy
Philosophical Writings, ed. N.K. Smith

Evaluation:

There will be three tests worth 75% and also a term paper will be required which will be worth 25% and the final grade will be based on the total performance of the student.

Philosophy N-221/3 X

Introduction to Logic and Philosophy of Science

V. Zeman

General problems of correct reasoning and its linguistic articulations will be studied. We shall also learn some elementary methods of deductive logic and analyse their role in scientific thinking in general.

Texts:

Baum, Robert Logic

Baum, Robert Workbook to Accompany Logic

Hempel, Carl Philosophy of Natural Science

Evaluations:

Students are expected to make use of conferences and pass successfully four in-class examinations. There will be no papers and no final examination.

Evaluation:

Each of the written assignments is worth 30% of the total grade, and the sum of the four quizzes for the substitute Final Take-home Test is worth 20%. However, consideration will be given to class attendance, participation, the personal interview with the professor and to representation during the course of the year.

Philosophy N-231/3 AA

Problems of Morals

B. Goldberg

This course offers an analysis of the major ethical theories of Western thought. An attempt will be made, through class discussion and student papers, to relate these theories to current ethical problems.

Texts:

Plato
Plato
Aristotle
Thomas Hobbes
Joseph Butler
Immanuel Kant
John Stuart Mill
John Dewey
Jean-Paul Sartre

Crito
Gorgias
Nichomachean Ethics (selections)
Leviathan (selections)
Five Sermons
Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals
Utilitarianism
Theory of Valuation
Existentialism and Human Emotions

Evaluation:

Four short-term papers and a final, take-home examination. Informed class participation will be used as a criterion for increasing a student's grade.

Philosophy N-273/3 X

Existentialism

C.G. Allen

This course will examine the main points of philosophic existentialism tracing its development from the nineteenth to the twentieth century in its two main streams of atheistic and religious thought.

Texts:

Kierkegaard	<u>Fear and Trembling</u>
Nietzsche	<u>Thus Spake Zarathustra</u>
Jaspers	<u>Reason and Existence</u>
Heidegger	<u>What is called Thinking?</u>
Sartre	<u>Existentialism and Human Emotions</u>
Marcel	<u>The Philosophy of Existentialism</u>

Evaluation:

Grading will be on the basis of short papers, worksheets and a take-home examination.

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Philosophy N-301/3 A

Greek Philosophy

C.G. Allen

A survey of the principal developments from the Presocratics (600 B.C.) to Plotinus (250 A.D.). Primary emphasis will be placed on the critical reading of selected original sources. The majority of time will be devoted to Plato and Aristotle.

Texts:

To be Arranged.

General Information:

Students are expected either to have already studied Plato's Republic or else to study this dialogue on their own in the course.

Evaluation:

Grading will be on the basis of work sheets, papers and a take-home examination.

Modern Logic

F. Oppacher

A study of sentential and predicate logic (with identity and descriptions). The emphasis is mainly on the development of natural deduction rules and their application to arguments. Some elementary model-theoretic concepts will be discussed and a completeness proof for predicate logic will be sketched.

Texts:

Kalish & Montague
Quine

Logic: Techniques of Formal Reasoning
Philosophy of Logic

Evaluation:

Three class tests worth 30% each and homework worth 10%.

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Philosophy N-333/3 AA

Rationalism and Empiricism

M.M. Ahmad

This course will be concerned with the Rationalist and Empiricist traditions of the 17th and 18th centuries with particular reference to such central figures as Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkely and Hume.

Special attention will be given to the contributions these thinkers made to such issues as the following: the sources, justification and limits of knowledge, mind and body; freedom and determinism; the status of the concepts of substance; the self, God and causality.

Texts:

To be arranged.

Evaluation:

There will be two tests and a term paper. The final grade will be determined by the total performance of the student.

Philosophy N-368/4

Exhibited for:

Philosophy N-368/4 AAPhilosophical Psychology

J. Ornstein

A critical examination of issues concerning the explanation of human behavior. Examples: Can a causal explanation of human behavior, including thought and language, be adequately accounted for solely in causal terms (or in terms of reinforcement)? What is the mind?

The course will begin with a study of B.F. Skinner's Beyond Freedom and Dignity. During and following this examination, such issues as the following will be discussed: freedom, determinism and indeterminism; behaviorism and consciousness; reasons and causes; choices, purposes and intentions versus causality and predictability.

The format of the course will be lecture-discussions.

Texts:

Ryle, G. The Concept of MindSkinner, B.F. Beyond Freedom and Dignity 1972 (Paper)

Evaluation:

One short paper (about 5 pages) and one longer one (about 10 pages). There will also be a mid-term class test and a final exam.

Tutor:

To be Arranged.

General Information:

Students are expected either to have already studied Piaget's Genetic Epistemology or to have had a basic introduction to the field of cognitive development.

Grading will be on the basis of work sheets, papers and a maximum classification.

Philosophy N-369/3 AA

Contemporary Analytic Philosophy

S. Mullett

A seminar devoted to the study of the development of contemporary analytic philosophy.

Texts:

Weitz, M. Twentieth Century Philosophers: The Analytic Tradition
Wittgenstein, L. Philosophical Investigation
Wittgenstein, L. Blue and Brown Books

Recommended Reading:

Flew, A.N. Logic and Language: First and Second Series
Ayer, A.J. Logical Positivism
Pears, D.F. Bertrand Russell and the British Tradition in Philosophy
Warnoch, G.J. English Philosophy since 1900

Evaluation:

The Final grade will be determined on the basis of papers read in seminars, take-home exams, and class participation.

Philosophy N-372/4 AA

Contemporary Political Thought

S. Mullett

This course will examine some main concepts in political thought from the point of view of both the Marxist and the British Analytic Philosophers, with special emphasis on the epistemology of Empiricism and Rationalism.

Texts:

Tucker, R.C. (ed.) The Marx and Engels Reader (Norton)

Recommended Reading:

Quinton, A.	<u>Political Philosophy</u> (Oxford)
Marcuse, H.	<u>Reason and Revolution</u> (Beacon)
Berlin, I.	<u>Karl Marx</u> (Oxford)
Avineri, S.	<u>The Social and Political Thought of Karl Marx</u> (Cambridge)
Meszaros, I.	<u>Marx's Theory of Alienation</u> (Harper)
Wolff, R.P.	<u>The Poverty of Liberalism</u> (Beacon)

Evaluation:

One research paper and one final exam, each worth 40% make up the written assignments of the course. The remaining 20% of the grade will be given on the basis of class attendance, participation and personal interview with the professor concerning the research paper.

Philosophy N-380/3 AA

Honours Seminar in Epistemology and Metaphysics

F. Oppacher

Objectives: To provide the student with a basic understanding of the central issues in Epistemology and Metaphysics. To give the student an opportunity to develop his/her own critical thinking on these topics.

The course surveys several theories of knowledge (foundationalist, coherentist, fallibilist) and addresses itself to the following topics: skepticism, justification of induction, relation between evidence and theory, mind-body interaction, universals, status of value judgements, etc.

Text:

Quinton The Nature of Things

Format:

Lecture-discussions; informed participation is encouraged.

Evaluation:

Two papers, two class presentations, and class participation.

Evaluations:

Two written exams. Also, two written papers - one for each professor.

Philosophy N-405/3 AA

Kant

V. Zeman

Objectives: To engage in a critical and detailed analysis of Kant's Critique of Pure Reason so as to gain a firm understanding of both its overall structure and the central theses. Also the role of the First Critique in the wider context of Kant's philosophy as well as its importance for the further development of philosophy will be discussed.

Method of Instruction: Lectures and discussions mainly. During the study of the text, students will hand in weekly assignments. Later in the course, term papers on selected topics will be presented. One written exam in February.

Texts:

Kant, Immanuel
Kant, Immanuel
Smith, Norman Kemp

Dissertation
Critique of Pure Reason (N.K. Smith's Translation)
A Commentary to Kant's Critique of Pure Reason

Recommended Reading:

Cassirer, E.
Kant, I.
Koerner, S.
Strawson, P.F.
Penelhum & McIntosh

Wolff, R.P.
de Vleeschauwer, H.J.

The Philosophy of the Enlightenment
Prolegomena to any Future Metaphysics
Kant
The Bounds of Sense
The First Critique: Reflections on Kant's
Critique of Pure Reason
Kant's Theory of Mental Activity
Development of Kantian Thought

Evaluation:

The final grade will be determined on the basis of the weekly assignments, the written exam, term papers and contribution to seminar discussions.

Philosophy N-407/3 AA

Ninettenth Century Philosophy

D. Laskey/V. Zeman

This course will explore some of the major themes in Nineteenth Century Philosophy beginning with the post-Kantians (Fichte, Schelling, Hegel) through the post-Hegelians to the voluntarists, positivists and pragmatists.

Texts:

- Gardiner, P.L. (ed.) 19th Century Philosophy, The Free Press, N.Y. 1969
Hegel, G.W. Lectures on the Philosophy of History, translation
 by J. Sibree, New York: Dover ISBN-0-486 20111-0
Thayer, A.L. Pragmatism

PLUS - one or two paper backs to be announced later.

Method of Instruction:

Each major philosophical school will be introduced and developed through a series of lectures. Class discussions will be concentrated toward the end of each major topic. In addition, two seminars will be held.

Evaluation:

Two written exams. Also, two written papers - one for each professor.

Philosophy N-409/3 AA

Phenomenology

D. Laskey

The objectives of this course are: (a) to provide the student with an understanding of the fundamental concepts of phenomenology; (b) to show relations between phenomenology and other contemporary developments, both European and American; (c) to provide the student with a disciplined method for the study of human consciousness.

Content:

The course is divided into three major areas: (a) origins and development of the mainstream of Husserlian phenomenology; (b) modification and development of phenomenology in new directions by Scheler, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty and Ingarden; (c) applications of phenomenology to particular problems in the areas of art, religion, literature, psychology, sociology, and history. This part of the course will be planned jointly by the students and the instructor after Christmas. The course will be composed primarily of lectures, followed by discussion, reports on independent projects, and visiting lectures when possible.

Texts:

Husserl, E.	<u>Cartesian Meditations</u>
Husserl, E.	<u>Phenomenology and the Crisis of Philosophy</u>
Scheler, M.	<u>Man's Place in Nature</u>
van Rintelen, F.J.	<u>Contemporary German Philosophy</u>

Suggested Reading:

Heidegger, M.	<u>Being and Time</u>
Lawrence, N. & O'Connor	<u>Readings in Existential Phenomenology</u>
Merleau-Ponty, M.	<u>The Structure of Behaviour</u>
Ingarden, R.	<u>Time and the Modes of Being</u>
Spiegelberg, H.	<u>The Phenomenological Movement</u>

Evaluation:

The final grade will be determined on the basis of several short quizzes, a written exam, term papers, contribution to class discussion.

Philosophy N-493/3 AA

Pragmatism

J. Ornstein

A critical exploration, through lecture-discussions, of the arguments and principles of early American Pragmatism. Such questions as the following will be discussed: What does meaning really amount to? Is all metaphysics really nonsense? Is there an ethics of belief? What does knowing actually involve? In addition, such influences as, e.g., that of James on Wittgenstein will be discussed.

Texts:

Peirce, C.S. The Essential Writings, ed. Edward C. Moore
 (Harper and Row, 1972)

James, W. The Will to Believe and other Essays in Popular
 Philosophy. (Dover 1956)

James, W. Pragmatism and Four Essays from The Meaning of Truth
 (Meridian Books, 1964)

Dewey, J. Quest for Certainty, (Putnam)

Evaluation:

Two papers, each about ten pages long, opportunities for re-writes are provided. Informed participation by the students is encouraged and welcomed by the Instructor. One's final grade may be partially determined by the quality of one's participation. There will also be a final exam.

Philosophy N-495/3 AA

AN ELEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE

Introduction to General Systems Theory

F. Oppacher

This course introduces the student to General Systems Theory as a philosophical perspective without presupposing any specific background in mathematics or logic. GST has been defined as "the science that is common to all large collections of interacting functional units that are combined to achieve purposeful behavior." It attempts to integrate contributions from diverse disciplines by uncovering structural isomorphisms, i.e. by abstracting from the qualitative nature of interactions and by focusing on their formal structure.

It is a basic assumption of this course that many important problems faced by society today involve increasingly complex, i.e. large and richly connected systems and that the methodological tools supplied by GST could be more successful in tackling these problems than the piecemeal approach of traditional methodology.

Although various specific systems will be studied for illustrative purposes the main objective of the course is to acquaint the student with GST as a very general conceptual scheme and an associated body of principles which govern an amazingly vast hierarchy of systems.

In particular, such basic and highly "transportable" concepts as e.g., structure, organization, feedback, complexity, information, purposiveness, will be explored and a teleological framework suited for the social and behavioral sciences developed.

Reading materials to be announced.

Evaluation:

Two term papers and several quizzes to be announced at the beginning of term.

The final grade will be determined on the basis of several short quizzes, a written exam, term papers, contribution to class discussion.